



401 N. Morton, Ste. 250 Bloomington IN 47404



GET INVOLVED ... VOLUNTEER!

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department volunteers provide valuable services to the community by assisting in many events and programs in a variety of ways. Volunteers can participate on a regular basis or on occasion as desired. There are many opportunities to choose from and an assortment of times and days available.

Volunteer opportunities exist in the following areas:

- Adult sports
- Clerical services
- Community events
- Cultural arts
- Environmental efforts
- Farmers' Market
- · Health and Wellness
- Inclusion programs
- Park projects
- Research/surveys
- Senior citizen programs
- Sustainability efforts
- Trail maintenance
- Tree planting
- Youth sports
- Youth programs

If you would like to be a volunteer with the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department contact Kim Ecenbarger at (812) 349-3739 or ecenbark@bloomington.in.gov.

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department • Volunteer Opportunities 401 N. Morton, Ste. 250 • Bloomington IN 47404

Make friends • Earn service learning credits Gain experience • Have fun

EVENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING: Volunteers will be trained at the beginning of their shifts.

Seusspicious Behavior

Don't sit at home with nothing to do! Come to the library for a birthday woo-hoo. It's Seusspicious Behavior, so the folks say And we're celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday Bloomington North performs a play that is funny Come to the library; you don't need any money! See a lot of good tricks. We will show them to you. Your mother will not mind at all if we do! With snacks and crafts and fun games to play,

Bloomington Parks and Recreation makes a Seussrific day! Seuss-like volunteers are needed

> to assist with hands-on activities that include crafts and games. In addition, assist with setup and teardown of the event.

Program Time:

Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs, and up

Number of Volunteers: 10

Community Gardening

Schedule a day, March-October

Saturday, March 7

Grow closer to local food! Community Gardening grows both plants and community. Since 1984, the Parks and Recreation Department has offered community gardening opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds. A favorite venue of volunteer groups, the gardens benefit from a number of service projects throughout the year.

Volunteers assist the staff in maintaining paths, turning compost,

weeding, and harvesting as well as creating and maintaining ornamental, wildlife, and demonstration plantings

Program Time: Schedule your group for a three- to four-hour shift Willie Streeter or Butler Park Community Gardens Location:

12 yrs. and up Age of Volunteers: Number of Volunteers: Groups of 5–25

Volunteer to Maintain our Natural Spaces

Schedule a Day, **March-November**

Help maintain and restore some of Bloomington's most scenic natural areas. Many group volunteer projects are available throughout the Bloomington community. Help is needed in the parks listed below.

Staff will work with your group or organization to formulate a work plan. Duties may include applying wood chips or gravel to paths, removing invasive plant species, trimming obstructive

vegetation, or re-routing trails.

Program Time: Schedule your group for a three- to four-hour shift. Leonard Springs Nature Park, Griffy Lake Nature Preserve,

Wapehani Mountain Bike Park, Winslow Woods Park, RCA Community Park, and Bryan Park

Age of Volunteers: 12 vrs. and up Number of Volunteers: Groups of 5–25

Leonard Springs Nature Days

Tuesday, March 24 Tuesday, March 31 Tuesday, April 7 Tuesday, April 14 Tuesday, April 21 (rain date)

Volunteer to teach area sixth grade students about our awesome natural heritage through multiple stations including karst, creeks, wetlands, and forests.

If you have an interest in the outdoors and enjoy working with Duties: children, sign up for our Leonard Springs Nature Day programs.

Station facilitators and group leaders are needed.

Program Time: 9:15 a.m.-2 p.m. Leonard Springs Nature Park, 4685 S. Leonard Springs Rd. Location:

18 yrs. and up Age of Volunteers: Number of Volunteers: 18 per day

Mad Ega Dash

Friday, March 27

Saturday, April 4

EGG

DASH

This isn't your grandma's egg hunt! Participants ditch the pink baskets and frilly bonnets because they'll need all their wits about them in this no-holds-barred, after-dark egg dash. When the starting horn sounds adults make a mad dash to grab as many eggs as they can! The winning eggs go to the swift, the strategic, and the lucky. Dash over and help the mad rabbit with

course construction, pre-dash activities,

registration, and teardown. 6:30-10 p.m. **Program Time:**

Bryan Park, 1100 S. Woodlawn Ave.—Woodlawn Shelter Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 15

Bloomington Girls Softball Player Assessment Day

Designed for the beginning through advanced player, this league focuses on responsible competition, including skill building and a complete understanding of the game. League offers several levels of play ranging from tee ball to fastpitch for players ages 4–15 yrs.

Volunteers step up to the plate and help with the player evaluation and team placement process. In an effort

to level the competition, players in each league are evaluated on their throwing, fielding, hitting, and catching abilities. Players are awarded a performance score, then are assigned a team. Volunteers assist staff in running stations and consistently

evaluating player skill levels using an evaluation tool. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd. Age of Volunteers: 18 vrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 10

Program Time:

Children's Expo

Sunday, April 12

Now in its 30th year, the Children's Expo is a parents' treasure trove for informational, educational, and recreational resources for schoolage children. The Expo continues to offer free health screenings by qualified healthcare professions, for children ages 10 yrs. and under Calling all volunteers interested in child

development. Add a festive atmosphere to the event, help professionals perform children's health screenings, assist at the welcome

table, provide vendor hospitality and much more! **Program Time:** Shift #1, 10:30 a.m. -2 p.m./Shift #2, 1:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Location: Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center, 302 S. College Ave. Age of Volunteers: 16 vrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 10–15 per shift

Earth Week-Trail Cleanup

Sunday, April 19

Celebrate Earth Week with a spring cleanup of the Lower Cascades Creek Trail **Duties:** Immerse yourself in the wonders of nature at one of

Bloomington's most beautiful parks! Help us maintain our trails with a spring cleanup of Lower Cascades Creek Trail. We'll provide bags and gloves, and together we'll keep our trails litter free

1-3 p.m.

Program Time: Lower Cascades Park, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37— Location:

Waterfall Shelter

For all ages (Children under age 14 yrs. must be accompanied Age of Volunteers: by an adult.)

Number of Volunteers: 25

Earth Week Thursday, April 23

Earth Week-Lake Cleanup Paddle around Griffy Lake and help clean up one of our most precious local resources

during Earth Week.

Duties:

Celebrate our Earth and its amazing natural resources by volunteering to help keep our local lake clean and sparkling.

Bags, boats, and gloves are provided. 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Program Time:

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, 3300 N. Headley Rd. Location: Age of Volunteers: For all ages (Children under age 14 yrs. must be accompanied

by an adult.)

Number of Volunteers: 25–50

Earth Week

Bryan Park Creek Maintenance Days

Wednesday, May 6 First Wednesday of the month, May-October

Bloomington Parks and Recreation has earned Community Wildlife Habitat certification from the National Wildlife Federation. The Bryan Park Creek naturalized area played a key role in certification and requires periodic maintenance to control invasive plant species and ensure native plant success.

Duties: Volunteers assist with monthly upkeep of this natural area along

beautiful Bryan Park Creek. Help maintain native plants by cutting back overgrown brush, removing invasive plants, and collecting

native plant seeds. Program Time: 5.30-7 n m

Bryan Park, 1100 S. Woodlawn Ave.—Woodlawn Shelter Location: Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up (Children under age 12 yrs. must be accompanied

by an adult.)

Number of Volunteers: 5–30

The 50+ Expo-**Tropical Paradise**

Tuesday, May 12/Event Setup Wednesday, May 13/Event

Expo

The 50+ Expo features free health screenings, plus an expo hall filled with exhibitors with information about products and services for seniors and their families.

Duties: Volunteers may decorate, direct exhibitors

to their spaces, greet participants, distribute 50+ Expo information, collect participant feedback, and tear down the event.

Tuesday: 2-5 p.m. (10-12 volunteers)/Event setup

Program Time: Wednesday shifts:

Shift #1, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (5-7 volunteers)/Exhibit hall assistants Shift #2, 2:30-4:45 p.m. (2 volunteers)/Welcome table Shift #3, 3–5 p.m. (2 volunteers)/General Expo and evaluations Shift #4, 4:30–7 p.m. (2 volunteers)/Welcome table

Shift #5, 5–7 p.m. (2 volunteers)/General Expo and evaluations

Shift #6, 7-8 p.m. (10 volunteers)/Event teardown Location: Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

Ferguson Dog Park Cleanup Days

Duties:

Wednesday, May 13 Second Wednesday of the month, May-October

Bloomington Parks and Recreation opened Ferguson Dog Park, a park specifically for dogs and their owners, in fall 2012. Our goal is to offer a safe and clean green space at the park. Periodic maintenance and upkeep is needed to ensure our four-legged and two-legged visitors enjoy their visit.

monthly upkeep of this designated dog space at the Ferguson Dog Park. Help maintain play areas by clipping, clearing, and cleaning in celebration of our canine play area.

5:30-7 p.m.

Program Time:

Ferguson Dog Park, 1100 S. 4300 N. Stone Mill Rd. Age of Volunteers:

12 yrs. and up (Children under age 12 yrs. must be accompanied

Do-good animal owners and animal lovers needed to assist with

by an adult.) Number of Volunteers: 5–30

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING: Volunteers are required to attend a volunteer orientation prior to program.

Banneker Afterschool Program

Twice weekly, January 5-May 22

Help students excel in math and reading skills by volunteering to read with students and review basic school-age mathematics. Additionally, facilitate activities in art and science and engage children in active games that stimulate creativity and critical thinking.

Duties: Whether you enjoy working with youth or have professional aspirations to, this service opportunity gives you hands-on experience. Tutor one-on-one or in small groups weekly.

Program Time: 3:30-5 p.m.

Fairview Elementary School, 500 W. Eighth St. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs, and up

Number of Volunteers: 8–10 per day, Monday–Thursday

Other: We ask that you commit to two days a week for the entire

Bloomington Youth Basketball-Season III and Middle School

The Bloomington Youth Basketball League focuses on basketball fundamentals and the application of learned skills during game participation for players in grades K–Middle School. All leagues are coed through grade 3; girls play in a



January 19-

girls-only league beginning in grade 4. Season includes weekly practices and games one night a week. The season concludes with a single-elimination tournament. Teams practice two nights a week for the first two weeks of the season (practice times are decided by the coach), then one night a week for the remainder of the season. Practices begin the week of January 19. Games begin the week of February 2. Join us for the satisfaction of playing in a fun and positive setting where everyone learns the game of basketball. **Duties:**

We are looking for coaches who can commit to once -or twiceweekly practices and one game per week. Volunteer coaches will enjoy making a difference in the lives of kids and can help develop our next big IU basketball star. (We suggest two coaches

Prospective coaches must sign up by Friday, January 9. Coach selection process completed by Tuesday, January 13.

Selected coaches must attend mandatory coaches training on Wednesday, January 14, 7 p.m. or Thursday, January 15, 5:30 p.m. at the Twin Lakes Recreation Center.

All selected coaches must complete an online coaching certification course from the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA). NYSCA certification must be completed by first practice. The certification fee for each coach is \$20. The online training is available at nays.org. Scholarships are available to offset expenses associated with the online training. For scholarship information, contact Jeigh Hockersmith at 812-349-3774 or hockersj@bloomington.in.gov

Program Time: Coaches plan and lead one or two one-hour practices per week and one, one-hour game per week.

Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 vrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 50

Other:

Returning coaches and parents have first priority for placement. Volunteers should commit for the entire season.

Soccer Sport Shorties

Tuesdays, February 3-March 10

The indoor turf field at the Twin Lakes Recreation Center is the ideal place for preschool athletes to learn the basic skills of team soccer! Athletes take part in fun, recreational drills to develop kicking, passing, and ball handling skills in this weekly program. Are you a soccer fanatic? Do you like children at

the adorable ages of 3–6 yrs.? Here is your chance to help us develop our next IU soccer superstar. Work with Bloomington Parks and Recreation staff to run an introductory soccer program geared toward preschoolers.

Program Time: 10-11:15 a m

Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 2

Training: Coaches' Orientation—Tuesday, February 3, 9:30 a.m. at the

Twin Lakes Recreation Center.

Adopt-a-Trail

Time line:

April 2015-March 2016 Monthly inspections/ One-year commitment

More than 30 trail miles in Bloomington's city parks need periodic inspections and maintenance to remain safe and usable. Volunteers have been valuable in establishing and maintaining our trails for many years. Parks and Recreation staff provide training and equipment to volunteer groups of any size for monthly trail monitoring and annual trail maintenance.

Duties: Inspect adopted trail at least once a month. Complete and submit reports on trail status. Provide basic maintenance during each visit

as needed. Do at least one work day per year. Staff works with you or your group to formulate a work plan.

Volunteers must submit an online application by February 27. An orientation takes place in late March. One-year appointment

starts April 1.

Program Time: Trail inspections can be completed at your leisure. Schedule your trail work day with the Adopt-a-Trail coordinator.

Locations: Various trails are available for adoption. Age of Volunteers: 12 vrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. Recruitment

class determined by number of trails available.

Adopt-an-Acre

Time line:

April 2015-March 2016 Monthly visits/ One-vear commitment

Adopt-an-Acre is an all-volunteer program that gives the public the opportunity to actively address invasive plant issues. Griffy Lake Nature Preserve has thriving populations of bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard, winter creeper, privet, and multiflora rose, all which are outcompeting native plants. Parks and Recreation staff provide the necessary training in invasive plant identification and equip volunteers to proactively monitor and remove impeding plants within their adopted area.

Inspect and make progress in removing invasive plants in adopted area of Griffy Lake Nature Preserve a minimum of once a month. Complete and submit monthly progress reports. Attend quarterly training workshops or review electronic training materials to adequately identify invasive plants and learn proper technique for removing. Schedule a minimum of one structured work day per year. Staff works with you or your group to formulate a work plan.

Volunteers must submit an online application by February 27. An orientation takes place the week of March 23. One-year

appointment starts April 1.

Program Time: Inspections and progress visits can be completed at your leisure. Various parcels of land are available for adoption at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. We have plot sizes for individuals and for groups.

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs, and up

Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. As part of our pilot program, we'll begin with 5–7 volunteers or volunteer

Bloomington Walking Club

Thursdays, April 2-October 29

Saturdays.

FARMERS MARKET

OF BLOOMING TON

April 4-November 28

Join a fun and informal gathering of walkers to develop healthy physical activity habits and meet new friends. Walkers choose from a two- or four-mile route and go at their own pace. Presented by Indiana Running Company, IU Health Bloomington, Southern Indiana Physicians, and Bloomington Parks and Recreation. **Duties:**

Embrace a healthy lifestyle and share it with others from the Bloomington community. Lead the walking group on their two- or four-mile route. Ensure safety and provide encouragement along the way.

5:30–7:30 p.m. **Program Time:** Location: Olcott Park, 2300 E. Canada Dr.

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 1–2

Bloomington Community Farmers' Market

From April through November, farmers and vendors fill Showers Common with locally grown produce, annual and perennial plants, and freshly baked bread for the Saturday morning Market. Local musicians perform while thousands of people find their way among the corn and tomatoes, local dairy products, and warm scents of fresh herbs. The Market often feels like equal parts shopping, socializing, and treasure hunt.

If you enjoy the ambiance of the Farmers' Market, this is the

volunteer opportunity for you! Work collaboratively with the Market supervisor with special events associated with Market and promote Bloomington Parks and Recreation programs by staffing the Bloomington Parks and Recreation table.

Program Time: 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Showers Common, Eighth and Morton Streets Location:

18 yrs. and up Age of Volunteers: Number of Volunteers: 1–4

Other: Volunteer for one to four Saturdays a month.

Tee Ball Sport Shorties Saturdays, April 25-June 6 Sport Shortie participants learn the basic skills of baseball in a fun and safe atmosphere where

parent participation is welcomed and encouraged. Children experience the FUNdamentals of team sports at an early

age. Are you a sports fanatic? Do you like children at the adorable ages of 3-6 yrs.? Do you think you may want to be a next generation IU coach? Here's your chance to help develop our next Albert Pujols, Derek Jeter, or Derrek Lee. Work with park staff to run an introductory baseball program geared toward preschoolers.

Program Time: Coaches assigned one, one-hour shift between 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Lower Cascades Park, 3601 N. Old State Rd. 37 Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 15

Training:

Coaches Orientation: Thursday, April 23, 5:30–6 p.m. at the Banneker Community Center, 930 W. Seventh St.

Bloomington Girls Softball

April 11-July 17

Designed for the beginning through advanced player, this league focuses on responsible competition, including skill building and a complete understanding of the game. This league offers several levels of play ranging from tee ball to fastpitch for players ages 4–15 yrs.

Volunteers step up to the plate as a season-long coach and teach the fundamentals of fastpitch

softball. Coaches plan practices by integrating various drills and prepare their teams for game competition. Prospective coaches must sign up by Friday, March 27.

Coach selection process completed by Tuesday, March 31. Selected coaches must attend mandatory coaches training on Saturday, April 4, 3 p.m. at Twin Lakes Recreation Center,

1700 W. Bloomfield Rd. All selected coaches must complete an online coaching

certification course from the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) by first practice. The certification fee for each coach is \$20. Scholarships are available to offset expenses associated with the online training.

For scholarship information, contact Jeigh Hockersmith at

812-349-3774 or hockersj@bloomington.in.gov. Coaches will be assigned one or two one-hour practices per week

and one, one-hour game per week. Looking for coaches in all

Winslow Sports Complex, S. Highland Ave. and Lower Cascades

Park softball fields, 2851 N. Old State Road 37

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 30–35

Adopt-a-Stream

Time line:

Program Time:

Locations:

Time line:

May 2015-April 2016 Monthly inspections/ One-year commitment

Adopt-a-Stream is an all-volunteer program that gives the public an opportunity to be actively involved in conserving and maintaining the natural wealth and beauty of streams that run through public park property owned by the City of Bloomington and Monroe County. Staff provide training and equipment for monthly stream monitoring and annual stream maintenance.

Duties: Inspect adopted stream at least once a month. Complete and

submit reports on stream condition. Provide general maintenance such as removing debris and litter. Attend a Hoosier Riverwatch workshop and perform water quality monitoring techniques at the stream at least four times per year. Schedule a minimum of one structured work day per year. Staff works with you or your group

to formulate a work plan. Volunteers must submit an online application by March 27. An orientation takes place in late April. One-year appointment

starts May.

Program Time: Stream inspections can be completed at your leisure.

Locations: Various streams are available for adoption in Bloomington and Monroe County 12 yrs. and up

Age of Volunteers: Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. Recruitment class determined by number of streams available.

Park Ambassador

May 2015-April 2016 Weekly inspections/ One-year commitment

The Park Ambassador program promotes community stewardship and bridges the communication between the community and the Parks and Recreation Department, and sends a message that the community cares about its parks.

Duties: Park Ambassadors become public stewards of the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department. Through weekly visits to local

parks, Ambassadors document maintenance needs, report acts of vandalism, interact with park users, promote park safety, and encourage an overall positive use of public space.

Time line: Volunteers must submit an online application by February 27; screening interviews take place in March; orientation takes place in April. One-year appointment starts May 1.

Program Time: Each visit requires approximately a one-hour assessment followed by the completion of a brief observation report.

Various parks are available. Age of Volunteers: 21 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 1 volunteer per identified park